

REGISTRY
FILE *Records*

6 July 1970

Mr. Walter Pforzheimer

1H1124 HQS

Walter:

I have never heard you mention
this. Is it true?

Bob
R. L. Bannerman

Deputy Director for Support

7D26 HQS



DD/S:RLB:maq

Distribution:

Orig - Adse w/att

1 - DD/S Subject w/cpy att

1 - DD/S Chrono

Att: Article from The Washington Post, 4 July, entitled "Who Betrayed Nathan Hale?"

WASHINGTON POST JULY 4 1970

Who Betrayed Nathan Hale?

Reuters

NEW HAVEN, Conn., July 3 — Yale University announced today it has acquired a 1777 letter hinting revolutionary war hero Nathan Hale — a Yale graduate — was betrayed by a cousin who went to Harvard.

The letter from Hale's father, Deacon Richard Hale of Coventry, Conn., on March 22, 1777, to his brother in Portsmouth, N.H., indicates the elder Hale believed his son was betrayed to the British by Samuel Hale. Samuel served with the British Army as deputy commissary of prisoners in New York City.

Hale is credited with the phrase "I regret that I have but one life to lose for my country" before his execution on Long Island, N.Y.

by the British. He was on an espionage mission for George Washington.

The letter was found in 1911 when a desk owned by Deacon Hale's brother was sold at an auction. It was given to Yale by Edwin J. Beinecke Jr., a member of the Board of Trustees of the Yale Library Associates.

Despite persistent rumors and newspaper reports at the time, no definite evidence has ever been uncovered that Samuel betrayed his cousin.

In the letter, Deacon Hale wrote: "Betrayed he doubtless was by somebody . . . but he is gone."

Referring to a newspaper report on Samuel's alleged role in the betrayal, the letter said, "Samuel's conduct toward Nathan was first re-

ported "as what was probley (sic) true" by a chaplain from the Continental Army.

"So gloomey a day we niver saw," the letter continued, "but I trust our cause is just . . ."